(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) what statutory permanent Air Traffic Control and other remedical measures are contemplated to avoid such serious probable disastrous incidents especially when hundreds of private aircrafts are operating from every major airport in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) On 12.6.2007 M/s Spice Jet B 737-800 aircraft VT-SPII while operating flight SEJ 852 (Jammu-Delhi Sector) landed on the wrong runway at IGI Airport. Pilot carried out Visual approach and landing clearance to the aircraft was issued after aircraft reported identified and sighted the runway 10. Since the two runways have same direction of approach, by the error of judgement, the Pilot made the approach on the runway 09 instead of runway 10 and finally landed on runway 09. At that time there was no aircraft movement on runway 09, Aircraft landed safely and vacted runway. There was no damage to the aircraft or injury to any person.

(b) Both the pilots were taken off the flying roster and subjected to corrective-training including crew resource management and refresheres on airport approach familiarisation.

(c) Trainings and refresher of pilots are being conducted at regular intervals to handle such situation where the two runways have approaches on same direction. Standard instrument and operating procedure have been laid down separately for both the runway to avoid recurrence of such incidents. Use of radar (SDD) in control tower, specially at major aerodromes has been made mandatory to monitor the movement of the landing aircraft.

Flights from Mangalore Airport

1488. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mangalore Airport has been declared as an International Airport;

(b) whether Air India Express is operating some direct flights from Mangalore to Gulf countries;

(c) whether the existing number of flights is inadequate and there is long waiting list;

(d) whether some private airlines have evinced interest in operating flights from Mangalore to a number of Gulf and other countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof and whether Governme.. is considering to augment the number of flights and add new destinations and permit private airlines in these sectors; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Mangalore airport has been declared as Custom airport on 3.5.2006.

(b) and (c) Air India Express is operating following flights to/from Mangalore, within its present operational capacity. Cochin-Mangalore-Abu Dhabi-Mangalore-Cochin-1 flt/week/ Cochin-Manglore-Muscat-Abu Dhabi-Mangalore-Cochin-1 flt/week/Calicut-Dubai-Mangalore-Calicut-7 flts/week; Calicut-Mangalore--Dubai-Calicut-6 flts/week; Cochin-Mangalore-Dubai-Cochin-Calicut-1 flt/week; Mangalore-Bahrain-Doha Mumbai-3 flts/week and Mumbai-Bahrain-Doha-Mangalore-3 flts/week respectively.

(d) to (f) Grant of international traffic rights to all scheduled Indian carriers eligible to go abroad is an on-going process. According to the process, all eligible carriers submit their operational plans in the first and third quarters of each year. After examination, traffic rights are granted to private scheduled carriers depending on the availability of traffic rights to particular countries/routes and after giving due consideration to the operational plans of national carriers.

Garbage dumps around airports

1489. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic and International airlines have reported against increasing number of bird hits due to expanding garbage dumps around the major airports in the country; and

(b) what steps have been taken by the Ministry, State Government and the respective municipal authorities to keep the surroundings of airports clean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. As against 189 bird hit incident reported in the year 2005, only 167 bird hit incidents were reported in the year 2006.

(b) While bird hits have not increased in number, measures have been taken to reduce/ eradicate bird activity at the airports. Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at those airport where scheduled flights operate to identify the source of bird attraction and take remedial steps for prevention of such incidents. Various, specific steps such as proper disposal of garbage prevention of water logging, coverage of garbage bins establishment of modern abattoirs, scaring of birds etc. have also been taken to reduce the incidence of bird hits.

Recuritment of air staff in Goa

1490. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government gives representation to the people of district/town/state in which airports are located, in the matter of jobs of pilots cabin-crew, engineers, clerical staff, technical staff etc.; and

(b) the number of such personnel, either by way of giving representations of otherwise from Goa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Recruitment to all the posts in Government/PSUs, including Airports Authority of India (AAI) is made in accordance with the procedure prescribed for the relevant post.

(b) The number of personnel in Group "C" & "D" belonging to the State of Goa in Western Region of AAI is 25.

Fate of Employees After the Merger of Indian and Air India

†1491. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when a complete merger of Indian and Air India is likely to take place;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.